

Message Text

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41

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-11 ISO-00 H-02 OMB-01 ACDA-10

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 /082 W

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R 101325Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6437

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY LOURENCO MARQUES

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMCONSUL CAPETOWN

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

USIA WASHDC

UNCLAS KINSHASA 1212

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: AO, CG, US, PINS

SUBJECT: EDITORIAL ARTICLES OF CONGRESSIONAL ACTION ON ANGOLA

USIA: PASS FOR IOP/M AND IAA

AMCONSUL CAPETOWN FOR EMBASSY

SUMMARY:

1. TO DATE THERE HAVE BEEN ONLY TWO EDITORIALS IN ZAIRIAN PRESS ON CONGRESSIONAL REFUSAL TO PROVIDE ASSISTANCE TO FNLA/UNITA COALITION. CRITICISM HAS BEEN MILD. END.

2. IN EDITORIAL FEB. 2 CRITICAL OF POSITIONS ADOPTED BY SUPER-

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POWERS ON ANGOLA ISSUE, GOVERNMENT CONTROLLED ZAIRE MAGAZINE

URGED AFRICAN STATES TO TAKE STOCK OF SITUATION. CHARGING RECENT CONGRESSIONAL ACTION MARKED US REFUSAL TO BECOME INVOLVED IN ANGOLA, EDITORIAL INTIMATED THAT, REGARDLESS OF REGRET BY WHITE HOUSE, US LET DOWN THOSE WHO HAD EXPECTED ITS ASSISTANCE.

3. IN FEB. 6 ELIMA EDITORIAL SIGNED BY NGEBAK, CONGRESS IS CRITICIZED FOR CONTINUING TO OPPOSE US MILITARY INTERVENTION IN ANGOLA. THIS, DESPITE REPEATED APPEALS FROM AFRICAN COUNTRIES AND PRESENCE OF SOVIET UNION. ADMINISTRATION'S ABILITY TO ESTABLISH BALANCE OF FORCES HAS BEEN PREVENTED BY CONGRESSIONAL ACTION, AT TIME WHEN SOVIETS ARE CONSOLIDATING THEIR POSITION IN ANGOLA. EDITORIAL NOTES THAT 1976 BEING AN ELECTION YEAR IN U.S. PRECLUDES PRESIDENT FORD'S ENTERING INTO A CONFLICT WITH LEGISLATIVE BRANCH ON THIS ISSUE. CONGRESSIONAL REFUSAL IS UNDERSTANDABLE, NGEBAK CONTINUES, IN LIGHT OF VIETNAM EXPERIENCE, BUT IT SHOULD NOT PREVENT MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO ANGOLA. EACH CASE SHOULD BE PLACED IN ITS PROPER HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE. AFTER URGING PRESIDENT FORD TO CONVINCE CONGRESS TO CHANGE ITS MIND, EDITORIAL STATES THAT IT HAD JUST BEEN LEARNED THAT "SECRETARY OF STATE HAD TURNED THE PAGE ON THE ANGOLAN PROBLEM". IN VIEW OF THIS, EDITORIAL CONCLUDED, THERE NO LONGER QUESTION OF RAISING ANGOLAN PROBLEM WITH CONGRESS.

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